



## **AI Ethics: An Abrahamic Commitment to the Rome Call**

**10th January 2023 | 17th Jumada al-Thani 1444 | 17 Tevet 5783**

**Vatican City**

*Joint Declaration*

### **Preamble**

The development of Artificial intelligence (AI) is already changing lives across the world. As its power grows, this change will prove as great as the industrial revolution, changing the nature of work, the possibilities of manufacture, and opening possibilities to deal with humanity's great challenges. But all great changes bring the capacity for good and for harm. Whether the development of AI is truly beneficial to all is in our hands.

In February 2020, a group of organizations led by the Vatican signed in Rome a "Call for AI Ethics", seeking to foster an ethical approach to AI. The Rome Call sought to promote a sense of responsibility among governments, businesses and institutions to think carefully about the ethical development of AI technologies, serving human creativity and respecting human dignity.

The Rome Call recognizes that new technologies and vast changes in human experience do not come with innate ethical constraints. It is incumbent on those of good will, from all walks of life, to look to the future, laying out frameworks for the ethical use of new technologies that envision the vast changes and opportunities that they create. If such action waits until the potential of new technologies is realized, it is too late.

Religious leaders, ethicists and theologians have essential roles to play in this endeavor. The religions that they serve place the inherent dignity of the human being, as something given by God, at the heart of their concepts of social relations and development. Their ethical approaches are not utilitarian, but absolute: we seek human flourishing because we are commanded to by our creator. We seek the welfare of the most vulnerable because in each individual, however weak, there is the spirit of God. Such a shared commitment to the value and well-being of every individual was expressed in the Charter of the New Alliance of Virtues signed in December 2019.

The three religions of the Abrahamic family, sharing basic ethical values derived from their shared history and development, should particularly seek opportunities to work together for an ethical vision of a world changed by AI.

Mindful of the Rome Call and the duties incumbent upon us in a world in which 80 per cent of people declare a faith,

We, representatives of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel's Commission for Interreligious Relations, the Pontifical Academy for Life and Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, having deliberated on

- The need for religious freedom in the promotion of human flourishing;
- The requirement for an ethical approach to the opportunities presented by AI;
- The complexities of AI and the challenges of international regulation;
- The vital contributions of religious leaders to a well-functioning polity and good governance;
- Our common concern for the most vulnerable in our societies and the requirement for equitable economic and technological development;
- The opportunities for inter-religious cooperation in the development of ethical frameworks for AI;

Acknowledged that technological development can have unintended consequences that lead to division and violence, and that this is especially true when development occurs without prior ethical consideration, frameworks, and a view to mutual human flourishing; and that our societies do not always affirm human dignity or promote peace.

Recognized and accepted that voluntary regulation is insufficient for the pace and scale of technological progress, and that new forms of international regulation must be encouraged to promote transparency and compliance with ethical principles.

Affirmed our role, as religious and political leaders and representatives, to build and uphold the principles of human dignity, freedom, "algorithcs", protection for the vulnerable and the common good.

We are mindful of the fact that, in the past, religion and religious differences have been exploited to exacerbate conflict, violence, the loss of life and property, and to gain political privilege. Accordingly, we stand together as an alliance of virtue, in pledging to do our utmost to work for peace and global fraternity and to avoid future exploitation of religions and their adherents.

Committed ourselves to promote "algorithcs", namely an ethical framework for the development and use of AI, by means of the following principles:

1. Transparency: on principle, AI systems must be clear and explicable.
2. Inclusion: the needs of all human beings must be taken into consideration so that everyone can benefit, and all individuals can be offered the best possible conditions to express themselves constructively.
3. Responsibility: those who design and deploy the use of AI should do so in a responsible manner and with integrity.
4. Impartiality: tools of AI should not be developed with bias, but should strive to be fair, honest, and protect human dignity.
5. Reliability: every effort must be made to ensure that AI systems work reliably.
6. Security and privacy: AI systems must ensure security and respect the privacy of users.

We call upon all stakeholders, including but not limited to business, developers, governments, civil society, and academics to

- Uphold the algorithmics principles, enshrining them in company policies and developing international regulation to maintain them;
- for those in authority or positions of power to refrain from the development of AI technologies for partisan, national or individual gain;
- for governments to refrain from the weaponization of AI technologies, which threatens the peaceful co-existence of us all.

We urge those engaged in AI research and development to consider the ethical ramifications of any advancements, to collaborate with ethicists, and to adhere to the cautionary principle in areas of moral concern.

We propose the creation of an alliance between technology companies and leaders representing most of the religious and ethical traditions of the world.

We hereby commend this joint declaration as a companion to the “Rome Call for AI Ethics,”

Rome, 10 January 2023; 17 Jumada II 1444 AH; 17 Tevet 5783

